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II. LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims is a courtesy copy, as no claims have been amended by this response.

1. (Previously amended) A method of increasing transmission control protocol (TCP) retransmission process speed, the method comprising the steps of:

generating a first duplicate TCP acknowledgement (Ack) covering a received TCP segment that is determined to be valid by TCP and was dropped by TCP based on an upper layer protocol (ULP) decision; and

transmitting the first duplicate TCP Ack.

- (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the ULP includes at least one of: a marker
 with protocol data unit alignment (MPA) protocol, a direct data placement (DDP)
 protocol, and a remote direct memory access (RDMA) protocol.
- 3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first duplicate TCP Ack is generated for a TCP segment regardless of whether the TCP segment is in-order or out-of-order.
- 4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first duplicate TCP Ack is generated even where a next in-order TCP segment has not been received.
- 5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of generating a second duplicate TCP acknowledgement (Ack) covering a next out-of-order received TCP

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segment.

- 6. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of transmitting the second duplicate TCP Ack.
- 7. (Previously amended) A system for increasing transmission control protocol (TCP) retransmission process speed, the system comprising:

a TCP acknowledgement (Ack) generator to generate a first duplicate TCP Ack covering a received TCP segment that is determined to be valid by TCP and was dropped by TCP based on an upper layer protocol (ULP) decision.

- 8. (Original) The system of claim 7, further comprising means for transmitting the first duplicate TCP Ack.
- 9. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the ULP includes at least one of: a marker with protocol data unit alignment (MPA) protocol, a direct data placement (DDP) protocol, and a remote direct memory access (RDMA) protocol.
- 10. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the generator generates the first duplicate

 TCP Ack for a TCP segment regardless of whether the TCP segment is in-order or out
 of-order.

- 11. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the generator generates the first duplicate

 TCP Ack even where a next in-order TCP segment has not been received.
- 12. (Original) The system of claim 7, further comprising a TCP Ack generator for generating a second duplicate TCP acknowledgement (Ack) covering a next out-of-order received TCP segment.
- 13. (Original) The system of claim 12, further comprising means for transmitting the second duplicate TCP Ack.
- 14. (Previously amended) A computer program product comprising a computer useable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein for increasing transmission control protocol (TCP) re-transmission process speed, the program product comprising:

program code configured to generate a first duplicate TCP acknowledgement (Ack) covering a received TCP segment that is determined to be valid by TCP and was dropped by TCP based on an upper layer protocol (ULP) decision.

- 15. (Original) The program product of claim 14, further comprising program code configured to transmit the first duplicate TCP Ack.
- 16. (Original) The program product of claim 14, wherein the ULP includes at least one of: a marker with protocol data unit alignment (MPA) protocol, a direct data placement

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(DDP) protocol, and a remote direct memory access (RDMA) protocol.

- 17. (Original) The program product of claim 14, wherein the generating program code generates the first duplicate TCP Ack for a TCP segment regardless of whether the TCP segment is in-order or out-of-order.
- 18. (Original) The program product of claim 14, wherein the generating program code generates the first duplicate TCP Ack even where a next in-order TCP segment has not been received.
- 19. (Original) The program product of claim 14, further comprising program code configured to generate a second duplicate TCP acknowledgement (Ack) covering a next out-of-order received TCP segment.
- 20. (Original) The program product of claim 19, further comprising program code configured to transmit the second duplicate TCP Ack.